

K-631

Windy Curve Farm
Near Galena
mid-19th Century

Standing on the south side of the old Galena-Massey road, Windy Curve is an unusual Greek Revival Style frame structure probably constructed in the mid-19th century. It appears to have been constructed on part of an early tract called Free Gift.

This is the only house in Kent County to use three-part windows on its entire facade. In Howard County, Folly Quarter, a great Greek Revival building uses the same device. Windy Curve Farm, however, is a modest vernacular version of the same.

When constructed, the 38' x 32' house had a service wing on the back and a Greek Revival porch on the front, both of which have since been removed. It retains pilasters on the front corners of the house and the central entrances with typical Greek Revival architrave, sidelights and transom.

There are many unexplained details in the house, such as the asymmetrical room plan and the position of the stair. Only one original mantel remains in a second story bedroom. Equally puzzling is the fact that no house is shown on this site in the 1877 Atlas.

K-631

Circa 1830-1840

Windy Curve Farm

Near Galena

Private

Once on the south side of the Galena-Massey road near its junction with the Galena-Chesterville road south of Galena, this frame, two-storey, hipped-roof house is now on a bypassed, revised remainder of the old route. Built in a vernacular Greek Revival style, the house is said to date from the 1830s. If dating from the 1830s, this house is an early one of its type; they were more commonly built in the 1850s and 1860s in Kent County. The main facade fenestration is unusual. It is three bays wide with the main entry in the center, but all the window are triple, a larger window with sidelights. The plan is also unusual, neither the common one having one room on each side of the central hall nor the more unusual one with approximately equal front and rear rooms on each side. The west side rooms appear to have been unequal, the rear the smaller, and it may not have been much more than an area for passing through, though it was heated. The rear of the other side and the area behind the central hall, which was not the full depth of the house as is customary, seem to have started on the first storey only as an open 8-foot-deep porch within the building's mass. The house apparently was built with a rear, perpendicular, low two-storey, shed-roofed kitchen-quarters wing behind the southwest room. It is gone, and an enclosed porch spans the south side of the house. Though the house has been remodeled and altered, numerous Greek Revival details remain on the interior. If this house does date to the 1830s, it is an unusually early use of the form and style in Kent County, though it was common elsewhere by this date. The floor plan may be unique in the county, an unusual division of space in a central-hall house of the period. One wonders if the owner-builder copied the plan from one seen elsewhere or if it was his own creation. Also unusual is the wide, battered door trim and the use of triple windows not just over the main entry, as was sometimes done to emphasize the central bay, but in every window bay of the main facade.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Free Gift; Ireland Corner Farm

and/or common Windy Curve Farm (preferred)

2. Location

South side old Galena-Massey Rd., 1 mile south
street & number of Galena *Chesterville Galena Rd (MD 290)* 3-12-77/94 ☐ not for publication

city, town Galena ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. E. Clark Walters, Sr.

street & number telephone no.: 648-5378

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 111

street & number Cross Street folio 48

city, town Chestertwon state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-631

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Once on the south side of the Galena-Massey road near its junction with the Galena-Chesterville road south of Galena, this frame, two-story hipped-roof house is now on a bypassed, revised remainder of the old route. The main facade faces north. Built in a vernacular Greek Revival style, the house is said to have been built in the 1830s. An old kitchen wooden lintel was dated, but the date can no longer be read. If dating from the 1830s, this house is an early one of its type; they were more commonly built in the 1850s and 1860s in Kent County. The main facade fenestration is unusual. It is three bays wide with the main entry in the center, but all the windows are double-hung and triple. The plan is also unusual, neither the common one having one room on each side of the central hall nor the more unusual one with approximately equal front and rear room on each side. The west side rooms appear to have been unequal, the rear the smaller, and it may not have been much more than an area for passing through, though it was heated. The rear of the other side and the area behind the central hall, which was not the full depth of the house as is customary, seem to have started on the first story only as an open porch within the building's mass. The house apparently was built with a rear, perpendicular, low two-story, shed-roofed kitchen-quarters wing behind the west-side rooms. It is gone, and an enclosed porch spans the south side of the house. Though the house has been remodeled and altered, numerous Greek Revival details remain on the interior.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-631

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1830-1840

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

If this house does date to the 1830s, it is an unusually early use of the form and style in Kent County, though it was common elsewhere by this date. The floor plan may be unique in the county, an unusual division of space in a central-hall house of the period. One wonders if the owner-builder copied the plan from one seen elsewhere or if it was his own creation. Also unusual is the wide, battered door trim and the use of triple windows not just over the main entry, as was sometimes done to emphasize the central bay, along with the main entry architrave, but in every window bay of the main facade.

The house is not mapped on the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson 1877 atlas maps of Kent County, surely an error. There is a building shown at the site on the 1860 Martenent map of Kent County. The name Armstrong is attributed to it; the first name may be William. The farm earlier was known as the Ireland Corner Farm for the Ireland family that lived there in the late nineteenth century, when it was still near the roads junction. The tract in late nineteenth century seems to have been know officially as Free Gift. It was then and still is a farm with small acreage--about 100 acres.

Survey No. K-631

Quadrangle scale _____

H | | | | | | | | | |

The house is about 38 feet wide by 32 feet deep. On the east and west ends there are windows on both storeys near the building corners. The rear second storey has three windows, with the spacing irregular. This south side once had the rear wing attached to it in its western bays, where there is now one window, perhaps an old door location, although the two building sections may not have been connected on the second storey, commonly the case when one was to house farm workers. The fenestration of the first-storey rear wall has also been altered.

The exterior is now covered with wide asbestos shingles painted gold, applied over horizontal, lapped weatherboard. A c. 1956 photograph of the house from the southwest shows no corner pilasters, but they may have been present on the front corners and not visible. At that time there was weatherboard on the rear wall of the deep room east of the central hall, within the shallow rear room (now a utility room) at the southeast corner. There was also a single window in this interior partition wall, to help light the deep, dark front room from an apparently open porch within the main building mass.

The house is built over a crawl space, with the foundation of rubble-laid Port Deposit granite. The joists run from side to side (east-west). The now-gone perpendicular kitchen wing had the cellar. The cellar is still present under the west end of the enclosed modern rear porch and is entered through the porch floor. There is no evidence of the cellar foundation's being that of an older building. The cellar walls are also constructed of the granite, as is the chimney base for fireplaces opening both into the main section and into the enclosed porch (formerly the kitchen area).

Only one chimney remains, the one whose base is mentioned above. It rises within the south wall of the main section in an unusual location for this sort of house. It has been rebuilt during the present owners' tenure, with new material. It has a two-course cap, and a flue tile is visible. The two end chimneys have been removed. They seem to have been centered, even though this placed their fireplaces off-center in the rooms they served. Seen in a photograph, they were tall and built of brick.

The roof is a shallow hip, with a flattened area in the area, which at the time it was built probably had a perimeter balustrade. There is now a ventilator there. The roof has been altered to eliminate the original built-in gutters, perhaps explaining the small box cornice (6-8"), unlike the usual broad overhang these houses had. However, in place is what appears to be a deep bevel crown molding with a bowtell at the upper edge, seen under the old shingles under the present roofing material of asphalt shingles. Before these were applied, the roofing was said to have been roll roofing over wood shingles. The fascia appears to be split-faced. The soffit is slightly recessed. The bed molding has an upper bowtell and is beveled below. The main elements of the cornice are bevels, a detail that was used in the Greek Revival period in Kent County.

Windows are double-hung with 6-over-6 lights in the single windows.
(continued)

The first-storey architrave of these windows is 3'-7" x 6'-11", including the sill. Second-storey windows are shorter. The trim is 4" wide and plain, but with modern brick mold added when the asbestos siding was applied. The sills are 2-1/2" deep, but the lintel trim is unusually deep--8-9"--though with brick mold applied on it. The original shutters are gone though hinge mortises remain. In place now are louvered, fixed shutters made of plastic. The triple windows have a large center double-hung one with 6-over-6 lights. The side windows are also double-hung but narrow, 2-lights-over-2-lights, but only one light wide. They are really sidelights. Nowhere else in the upper county are these windows used to this extent. A single set is used above the main entry at K-269, the Donahoe Farm near Massey, but all other windows at that house are single.

The original porch at the main entry is gone. It is said to have been rather small, with parapeted roof, evidently a true Greek Revival porch. The architrave is 7-1/2 feet wide. The head may have been somewhat truncated with the removal of the old porch, though possibly not. Pilasters are plain and broad (8-3/4") with plain 10" bases. They have caps of a deep cove with rolled upper and lower edges (3" overall). The sidelights and transom now have clear acrylic affixed over them with small molding. The door has two tall vertical panels, with perimeter corbelling within the panels. On the inside the door's panels are molded with Greek ogee molding. The hardware is not original. The transom has three equal lights. The sidelights each have three lights with one panel below. As panel molding there is lattice, or one course of corbelling. The apparently thin, plain transom bar is partially obscured by alterations to accommodate the hanging of an aluminum storm-screen door. The architrave head trim probably ended at the ceiling of the old porch. On the interior the architrave is almost wall to wall in the hall. Its pilasters are battered.

In one bedroom (north) a mantel remains exposed. Pilasters were plain, and the deep frieze had its lower edge sawn into a bold cyma shape that is similar to that of one mantel at K-186, Stoltzfus Farm, near Lambson Station. This is the only mantel remaining in the house.

The stair is open-string and dogleg and rises along the west hall wall to the partition wall at the landing, behind which there is now a bathroom. It is several steps up to this room from the landing, but the main stair also continues around. The spandrel is board-on-board, with 4-1/4" exposure using 1-3/8" thick boards. This is an unusual detail. There are two painted, relatively simply turned balusters per tread; the main shaft is long, plain, and tapered; the simple turnings are in the lower third. The newel is heavy, compoundly turned, and with a large square base about 6-1/2" square. The cap is large, sharing that measurement for its diameter. The rail is continuous with the cap. There are no intermediates. The rail appears to be of walnut and is heavy, almost round. The balustrade ends in an engaged simple newel on the west wall of the second storey. The steps are carpeted except for the balustrade area.

Interior trim on the first storey is heavy, plain and wide. Jamb trim is
(continued)

battered, very unusual. At the top it is 4-1/2" wide; at the bottom it measures 5-1/2" wide. There is a plain 1-1/2" x 1/2" backband. The lintel trim is simple but stepped out one inch to overhang the jamb trim. The lintel trim is 5" deep, including the backband at the top. There is also a small cap, consisting of cove with fillet and then a 1-1/2" plain piece above. Actually, this is created by the taper of the jamb trim. While these are not the same crossettes as seen at K-626, the Coleman-Thompson Farm, the intended effect was the same.

K-631

1110000 FEET

55'

Knigh Island

HALL CREEK

SASSAFRAS

Old Field Pt

Little Marsh Pt

WOODLAND

Daffodil Island

CREEK

CECIL CO
KENT CO

RIVER

DYER CR

K-573

K-149

K-582

K-582

K-581

K-575

K-117

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K-631

Windy Curve Farm

Old Galena-Massey Road, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/16/86

View to southeast

ONTARIO HISTORICAL TRUST
ARCHIVE

K-631 Windy Curve Farm C. 1850



K-631

Windy Curve Farm

Old Galena-Massey Road, near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/16/86

View to northeast

**CLEVELAND HISTORICAL TRUST
LIBRARY**

K-631 Windy Curve Farm C.1850